MEISTER *et al.*
Appl. No. 10/715,408

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims below will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) An e-mail method, comprising:

recognizing ~~whether a complete~~that an unauthorized electronic mail message ~~composed by a virus and having a valid recipient address~~ is about to be sent~~, after a send function has been initiated, from a sending side to a receiving side~~ from a computing device configured to send an electronic mail message; and

providing at the computing device an alert indicating that the unauthorized~~alerting a system user on the sending side as to the complete~~ electronic mail message ~~being~~is about to be sent~~; and~~

~~allowing a user to authorize sending of the complete electronic mail message~~.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method as recited in claim 1, wherein ~~the~~said recognizing that an unauthorized electronic mail message is about to be sent comprises detecting that a send function ~~is~~has been initiated by an unauthorized agent.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the unauthorized agent is ~~the~~a virus.

4. (Currently Amended) A~~The~~ method as recited in claim 1, ~~wherein said recognizing recognizes a send operation initiated by the user~~further comprising stopping transmission of the unauthorized electronic mail message.

5. (Currently Amended) A~~The~~ method as recited in claim 1, ~~wherein said recognizing recognizes a send operation initiated by an unauthorized agent including the virus~~further comprising deleting the unauthorized electronic mail message prior to transmission of the unauthorized electronic mail message.

6. (Currently Amended) An e-mail method, comprising:

recognizing ~~whether a complete~~that an unauthorized electronic mail message ~~composed by a virus and having a valid recipient address~~is about to be sent~~, after a send function has been initiated, from a sending side to a receiving side~~from a computing device configured to send an electronic mail message; and

stopping transmission of the ~~complete~~unauthorized electronic mail message~~ until authorized by a user~~.

7. (Currently Amended) An e-mail method, comprising:

recognizing ~~whether a complete~~that an unauthorized electronic mail message ~~composed by a virus and having a valid recipient address~~is about to be sent~~, after a send function has been initiated, from a sending side to a receiving side~~from a computing device configured to send an electronic mail message; and

providing ~~a user with an opportunity to consider canceling~~deleting the unauthorized

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electronic mail message, prior to transmission of the ~~complete~~unauthorized electronic mail message ~~until authorized by the user~~.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method as recited in ~~claim 7~~claim 1, further comprising displaying the ~~complete~~unauthorized electronic mail message ~~to the user after the send function is initiated~~ in an interface configured to input an instruction to ~~allowing the user to~~ modify the ~~complete~~unauthorized electronic mail message, cancel transmission of the ~~complete~~unauthorized electronic mail message ~~and~~or authorize transmission of the ~~complete~~unauthorized electronic mail message.

9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

   ~~an e-mail transmission system having a sending side and a receiving side; and~~

   ~~an e-mail system recognizing a complete~~a computing device configured to:

      send an e-mail message;

      recognize that an unauthorized e-mail message ~~composed by a virus and having a valid recipient address,~~ is about to be sent~~, after a send function has been initiated,~~ ~~by a user via the transmission system, alerting a user on the sending side as to the addressees~~ ~~of the complete e-mail message and allowing the user to authorize sending of the complete e-~~ ~~mail message~~from the computing device; and

      control a send operation of the unauthorized e-mail message from the computing device responsive to recognizing that the unauthorized e-mail message is about to be sent from the computing device.

10.   (Currently Amended)   A computer readable storage medium <u>having stored thereon, computer executable instructions that, if executed by a computing device, cause the computing device to perform a method comprising</u>~~for controlling a computer including a computer program~~:

recognizing ~~whether a complete~~<u>that an unauthorized</u> electronic mail message ~~composed by a virus and having a valid recipient address,~~ is <u>about</u> to be sent~~, after a send function has been initiated,~~<u>from the computing device; and</u>

~~alerting a user as to the complete~~<u>controlling a send operation of the unauthorized</u> electronic mail message ~~being sent and allowing the user to authorize sending of the complete electronic mail message~~<u>responsive to recognizing that the unauthorized electronic mail message is about to be sent from the computing device.</u>

11.   (Currently Amended)   An electronic <u>mail</u> message alert display, comprising:

<u>a</u> text <u>display that provides an alert indicating that</u>~~alerting a user on a sending side as to a complete~~<u>an unauthorized</u> electronic <u>mail</u> message ~~composed by a virus and having a valid recipient address,~~<u>is</u> about to be sent; ~~after a send function has been initiated,~~

~~a list of addressees;~~ and

an interface ~~element allowing the user to authorize~~<u>that enables selective input of an instruction that stops</u> transmission of the ~~complete~~<u>unauthorized</u> electronic <u>mail</u> message.

12.   (Currently Amended)   An e-mail method~~associated with messages of a user~~, comprising:

determining ~~whether~~<u>that</u> an <u>unauthorized</u> electronic mail message ~~having at least a minimum of parts needed to be a valid electronic mail message and~~ composed by a virus is

about to be sent from a computing device configured to send an electronic mail message; and

alerting the user as toproviding at the computing device an alert indicating that the unauthorized electronic mail message is about to be sent.

13. (Currently Amended) An e-mail method associated with messages of a user, comprising:

determining whetherthat an unauthorized electronic mail message having at least a minimum of parts needed to be a valid electronic mail message and composed by a virus is about to be sent from a computing device configured to send an electronic mail message is being sent by an unauthorized agent; and

alerting the user as toproviding at the computing device an alert indicating that the unauthorized electronic mail message is about to be sent; and

allowing the user to permit sending of the electronic mail message to be sent.

Claims 14 - 22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) An e-mail method, comprising:

recognizing whether a completethat an unauthorized electronic mail message composed by a process configured to compose an unauthorized electronic mail message and having a valid recipient address is about to be sent, after a send function has been initiated, from a sending side to a receiving side from a computing device configured to send an electronic mail message; and

alerting a system user on the sending side as to the completeproviding at the computing device an alert indicating that the unauthorized electronic mail message is about to

be sent; and

~~allowing a user to authorize sending of the complete electronic mail~~ message.

24. (Currently Amended) A<u>The</u> method as recited in claim 23, wherein the process is a virus.

25. (Currently Amended) A<u>The</u> method as recited in claim 23, wherein the process is an unauthorized agent.

26. (Currently Amended) An e-mail method, comprising:

recognizing ~~whether a complete~~<u>that an </u>electronic mail message ~~is~~<u>about </u>to be sent from a ~~sending side to a receiving side, wherein the complete~~<u>computing device configured to send an </u>electronic mail message is an unauthorized electronic mail message~~, has a valid recipient address, and is to be sent after a send function has been initiated~~;<u> and</u>

~~alerting a system user on the sending side about the complete~~<u>providing at the computing device an alert indicating that the unauthorized</u> electronic mail message <u>is about</u> to be sent; ~~and~~

~~allowing a user to authorize sending the complete electronic mail message.~~

27. (Currently Amended) A computer ~~program product including a tangible computer-~~readable medium ~~containing~~<u>having stored thereon, computer executable</u> instructions that, ~~when~~<u>if</u> executed by a ~~processor~~<u>computing device,</u> ~~causes the processor~~<u>cause the computing device</u> to perform ~~processes of~~<u>a</u> method comprising:

recognizing ~~whether a complete~~that an electronic mail message ~~is~~about to be sent from a ~~sending side to a receiving side, wherein the complete~~computing device configured to send an electronic mail message is an unauthorized electronic mail message~~, has a valid recipient address, and is to be sent after a send function has been initiated~~; and

alerting ~~a system user on the sending side about the complete~~providing at the computing device an alert indicating that the unauthorized electronic mail message is about to be sent~~; and~~

~~allowing a user to authorize sending the complete electronic mail message.~~

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) An e-mail system, comprising:

means for recognizing ~~whether a complete~~that an unauthorized electronic mail message is about to be sent from a ~~sending side to a receiving side, wherein the complete~~a computing device configured to send an electronic mail message~~is composed by an unauthorized agent, has a valid recipient address, and is to be sent after a send function has been initiated~~; and

means for ~~alerting a system user on the sending side about the complete~~providing at the computing device an alert indicating that the unauthorized electronic mail message is about to be sent~~; and~~

~~means for allowing a user to authorize sending the complete electronic mail message.~~

30. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the unauthorized electronic mail is composed by a virus and has a valid recipient address.

31. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said recognizing that an unauthorized electronic mail message is about to be sent includes detecting that a send operation has been initiated.

32. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the unauthorized electronic mail is composed by a virus and has a valid recipient address.

33. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein said recognizing that an unauthorized electronic mail message is about to be sent includes detecting that a send operation has been initiated.

34. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein the unauthorized electronic mail is composed by a virus and has a valid recipient address.

35. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein said recognizing that an unauthorized electronic mail message is about to be sent includes detecting that a send operation has been initiated.

36. (New) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the unauthorized electronic mail is composed by a virus and has a valid recipient address.

37. (New) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the computing device is configured to detect that a send operation has been initiated and recognize that the unauthorized electronic mail message is about to be sent.

38. (New) The computer readable storage medium of claim 10, wherein the method further comprises recognizing the unauthorized electronic mail is composed by a virus and has a valid recipient address.

39. (New) The computer readable storage medium of claim 10, wherein said recognizing that an unauthorized electronic mail message is about to be sent includes detecting that a send operation has been initiated.

40. (New) The display of claim 11, wherein the text display indicates the unauthorized electronic mail is composed by a virus and has a valid recipient address.

41. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the unauthorized electronic mail has a valid recipient address.

42. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein said recognizing that an unauthorized electronic mail message is about to be sent includes detecting that a send operation has been initiated.

43. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein said recognizing that an unauthorized electronic mail message is about to be sent includes detecting that a send operation has been initiated.

44. (New) The computer readable storage medium of claim 27, wherein said recognizing that an unauthorized electronic mail message is about to be sent includes detecting that a send operation has been initiated.

45. (New) The system of claim 29, wherein said means for recognizing that an unauthorized electronic mail message is about to be sent includes means for detecting that a send operation has been initiated.

46. (New) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said computing device is configured to control the send operation by providing at the computing device an alert indicating that the unauthorized e-mail message is about to be sent from the computing device.

47. (New) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said computing device is configured to control the send operation by stopping transmission of the unauthorized e-mail message

48. (New) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said computing device is configured to control the send operation by deleting the unauthorized e-mail message, prior to transmission of the unauthorized e-mail message.

49. (New) The apparatus of claim 29, further comprising:

      means for stopping transmission of the unauthorized electronic mail message.

50. (New) The apparatus of claim 29, further comprising:

   means for deleting the unauthorized electronic mail message, prior to transmission of the unauthorized electronic mail message.

51. (New) The computer readable storage medium of claim 10, wherein said controlling a send operation of the unauthorized electronic mail message includes providing an alert indicating that the unauthorized electronic mail message is about to be sent.

52. (New) The computer readable storage medium of claim 10, wherein said controlling a send operation of the unauthorized electronic mail message includes stopping transmission of the unauthorized electronic mail message.

53. (New) The computer readable storage medium of claim 10, wherein said controlling a send operation of the unauthorized electronic mail message includes deleting the unauthorized electronic mail message, prior to transmission of the unauthorized electronic mail message.